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HOUSE BILL 392

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Nick L. Salazar

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

AN ACT

**RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; PROVIDING A MEANS FOR POST-
SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO ADDRESS AND IMPROVE THE
STATE'S RESPONSE TO CRITICAL SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, EDUCATIONAL AND
OTHER ISSUES; CREATING THE HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT
ENHANCEMENT FUND.**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

ENHANCEMENT FUND--PURPOSE. --

**A. The "higher education program development
enhancement fund" is created in the state treasury. All income
earned on investment of the fund shall be credited to the fund
and money in the fund shall not revert to any other fund at the
end of a fiscal year. The fund shall be administered by the
commission on higher education and money in the fund is**

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1 appropriated to the commission to carry out the purposes of
2 this section. Disbursements from the fund shall be by warrant
3 drawn by the secretary of finance and administration pursuant
4 to vouchers signed by the executive director of the commission
5 on higher education or his authorized representative.

6 B. The higher education program development
7 enhancement fund shall be used to enhance the contribution of
8 post-secondary educational institutions to the resolution of
9 critical state issues and the advancement of the welfare of
10 state citizens.

11 C. At the beginning of each fiscal year in which
12 the commission determines that the balance of the fund is
13 sufficient to make awards, the commission shall define or
14 reaffirm no more than four critical issues to be addressed
15 through awards from the fund. Issues to be addressed may
16 include:

17 (1) expanding instructional programs to meet
18 critical statewide work force and professional training needs;

19 (2) enhancing instructional programs that
20 provide employment opportunity for New Mexico students in a
21 global economy; and

22 (3) developing mission-specific instructional
23 programs that build on existing institutional academic
24 strengths.

25 D. The commission shall establish criteria and

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1 procedures for making awards from the fund based on evaluation
2 of competitive proposals submitted by post-secondary
3 educational institutions. Each winning proposal shall address
4 at least one of the critical issues defined for use of the fund
5 that year. Criteria may include:

6 (1) collaboration among educational agencies
7 and other public or private entities that demonstrate a
8 competency regarding the issues addressed by the proposal;

9 (2) the commitment of matching money; and

10 (3) evaluation components.

11 E. The commission shall report annually to the
12 legislature and the governor on the status of the fund and
13 projects supported by the fund.

14 Section 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. --The effective date of the
15 provisions of this act is July 1, 2003.

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